

HOUSE BILL 2554
By Eldridge

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41,
Chapter 21, relative to inmates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-21-236(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(2)

(A) Each inmate who exhibits good institutional behavior and/or who exhibits satisfactory performance within a program may be awarded time credits toward the sentence imposed, varying between one (1) day and sixteen (16) days for each month served, with not more than eight (8) days for each month served for good institutional behavior and not more than eight (8) days for each month served for satisfactory program performance in accordance with the criteria established by the department.

(B) In addition to the time program performance credit awarded pursuant to subdivision (a), the department shall provide an educational good time credit of sixty (60) days to any prisoner who successfully receives a graduate equivalency diploma or a high school diploma, a two (2) or four (4) year college degree, or a two (2) year or four (4) year certification in applied sciences, or who receives a vocational education diploma as provided and defined by the department. Prisoners may earn such additional sixty (60) days credit for each program completed.

(C) No inmate shall have the right to any such time credits nor shall any inmate have the right to participate in any particular program and may be

transferred from one (1) assignment to another without cause. The provisions of this section shall also apply to any inmate sentenced to the department of correction who is being held on a contract basis by a private correctional corporation.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.